

Strategic Benchmarks for Measuring the Effectiveness of the President's New Strategy in Iraq

It is in America's strategic interests to ensure regional stability in the Middle East and to deny terrorists a safe haven in Iraq. To achieve these objectives, House Republican Leaders and key Committee Ranking Members have identified a set of strategic benchmarks designed to measure the progress of President Bush's new strategy in Iraq, and to hold the Bush Administration and the Iraqi government accountable for their role in achieving success.

These benchmarks are aggressive and tailored to every component of the President's new strategy. The President and the Iraqi government must certify progress is being made to meet these benchmarks and report to Congress every 30 days. These strategic benchmarks provide a common sense yardstick by which to measure whether sufficient progress is being made in Iraq.

MILITARY BENCHMARKS

- Iraqi Government Cooperation - measure the level of Iraqi government cooperation with the U.S. military on counter-terrorism efforts in Iraq.
 - Measure progress made by the Iraqi government on purging from its security services those individuals with ties to insurgents and terrorism.
 - Measure progress made by the Iraqi government on denying insurgents, terrorists, and their state-sponsors the use of Iraqi territory as a sanctuary.
- Iraqi Army Rotation - identify the level of combat experience for all the Iraqi Army battalions and require the Iraqi Ministry of Defense to deploy all Iraqi units needed to secure Baghdad and al Anbar Province.
- Iraqi Investment in the Iraqi Army - track the expenditure of Iraqi funds, already earmarked for the Iraqi Army, for the purpose of equipping the Iraqi Army.
- Performance of the Iraqi Police Force - measure the effectiveness of the police force in Baghdad using normally accepted crime statistics.
- Measure the steps being taken by the government of the United States to hold the Iraqi government accountable for meeting these benchmarks.

POLITICAL / SOCIAL BENCHMARKS

- Measure the level of progress by the Iraqi government on:
 - Developing a strategy to promote tolerance, peace, and co-existence among Iraqis.
 - Providing equal access to resources to all Iraqis.
 - Adopting reforms to promote democracy and the rule of law, and ensuring financial accountability of all government ministries and operations.
 - Reforming the judicial system and ensuring equal application of the law to all Iraqi citizens.
- Measure the cooperation with and coordination of neighboring countries to help stabilize Iraq.
- Measure the steps being taken by the government of the United States to hold the Iraqi government accountable for meeting these benchmarks and to be accountable for the progress of and funding for the Provincial Reconstruction Teams.

OUR STRATEGIC ASSESSMENTS

- Require an interagency assessment on the impact withdrawal would have on our national security and homeland security interests, as well as an assessment on the impact withdrawal would have for our allies in the region.